



Harford County Commission on Veterans Affairs Meeting Notes

April 5, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Hayden J. Anthony at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room, 220 S. Main Street, Bel Air, Maryland.

Attending: Hayden Anthony, Patricia O'Keefe, Pam Silcox, Janice Cassidy, Mike Ray, Deacon Vic Petrosino, Linda Anthony

Excused: Bob Brown, Lisa Brown, Art Kaff, Larry Owen, Bill Montgomery, Bill Elliott, James Castelli, Councilman McMahan (liaison)

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chair Anthony. Prayer was led by Deacon Vic.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the March HCCOVA meeting were sent to commission members for review prior to the March meeting. Scott Kearby motioned for approval of the minutes and Patricia O'Keefe seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by commission members.

Opening Comments from Appointed Members:

Hayden Anthony – My wife (Linda) and I attended the viewing for SSG James Carpenter who was stationed at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic on APG.

Spoke to Julie Bryson from Charles County Government. She said that they are interested in setting up a Veteran's Commission similar to Harford County and they would like to attend one of our meeting or if possible Skype/call in during the May meeting.

Mike Ray – Was given the information for the POC for the Cell Phone for Soldiers program and he will call to coordinate the pickup of donated cell phones.

Deacon Vic Petrosino – Talked about the God Understands series of books/pamphlets from the American Bible Society. There are several in the series and they are geared to meet the spiritual needs of our military/veterans and they are free to obtain.

Pam Silcox – Gave us an updates on the Veteran's fair for November 10, 2018. She said the Color Guard from the American Legion Bel Air Post will handle the opening flag ceremony. She also said that she has gotten positive feedback regarding the event. And Pam would like for us to get with Cindy Mumby (Director of Governmental & Community Relations) to have "Save the Date" flyers made. Hayden Anthony will contact Cindy.

Question came up if there was any update from the MD Legislation regarding HB327 Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Military Retirement income. (Update) Bill was passed on April 7th. Starting July 1, 2018 all those receiving a military retirement income (to include Survivor

Benefits) and are at least 55 years old will have an exemption of \$15,000 from Maryland State Income Tax.

GUEST SPEAKER/PRESENTATION

Terri Kennedy - Business Services Representative, Susquehanna Workforce Network (SWN).

The Susquehanna Workforce Network, Inc. (SWN) is a private, nonprofit corporation directed by a Board that oversees, coordinates, or plans workforce development programs and services for businesses and individuals in Cecil and Harford Counties.

SWN has 3 workplace centers located in Aberdeen, Bel Air and Elkton.

Business Services - helps employers post jobs and coordinate job fairs.

Job Seeker Services - which is a free service provides workshops for creating resumes, basic computer skills, and help with applying for federal positions. You can visit any one of the 3 workforce centers for assistance. They also can provide funds (grants) for certain programs and for certification exams.

Youth Services – focus on those who have dropped out of school, help them get a GED and find jobs. They also hold entry level job fairs and summer job fairs.

Terri's email is tkearney@swnetwork.org and she is located at 410 Gerard Street, Havre de Grace, MD 21078 and her phone number is (410) 939-4240/ (410) 642-6384/ (410) 575-7248

Kim Joyner – Veteran Navigator with the Military Corps Career Connect (C3)/Susquehanna Workforce Network.

Military Corps Career Connect or C3 is a workforce initiative aimed at reducing the unemployment rate of veterans and active duty spouses in Maryland.

C3 prepares soldiers with training, licensing and certification needed for a successful civilian career. The program offers career planning, coaching, job preparation, work & learn training opportunities and support with licensing and certifications. All services are available for free.

They also have a relationship with Perry Point VA Hospital to bring veterans to the workforce center.

Kim splits her time between the University Center in Aberdeen and the Elkton office. Her email address is kjoyner@swnetwork.org

Kim stated that she will be attending our Veteran's Fair in November and she thanked the Commission for all that they do and also informed us that she too is a veteran.

The website for Susquehanna Work Force is www.SWNetwork.org and Military Corps Career Connect (C3) <http://militaryc3.org/>

Suggest that we put both websites on our Veterans Commission useful links.

OLD BUSINESS

- Harford County tax credit for Veterans. Deadline was April 1st, however mentioned that it will be given again next year and if anyone is eligible they should submit their request for the tax credit.

NEW BUSINESS

WWI Celebration

- April 14 WWI event, special tribute to Dr. Howard Kelly's contribution to the recovery & rehabilitation of returning soldiers from the war. Several guest speakers to be on hand, soldiers in period dress, displays, and songs from WWI.

Veterans Resource Fair 2018

- Veteran's fair – need volunteers to sign up to assist. Deacon Vic said that he will assist with setting up and breaking down of event.

Independence Day Parades

- Commission will participate in both 4th of July parades (Bel Air & Havre de Grace). Mike will be the POC for the Bel Air parade which is held on July 4th and will reach out to the Bel Air parade committee. Johnny Boker will be the POC for the Havre de Grace Parade which is scheduled for July 1st.

APG Retiree Appreciation Day

- Reminder that the APG Retiree appreciation day is May 12 and we will need volunteers to staff table.

Harford Community College

- The U.S. Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus will be playing at the APG Federal Credit Union Arena on Friday, May 18, 2018 at 7:30. Admission is free, however tickets are required and can be obtained by going to following link:

<http://www.apgfcuarena.com/events/2018/usarmybandconcert>

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 3rd, 2018 at 6:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Prepared by Hayden J. Anthony